Representation by MPs for Inclusin of FP & ARD in the Ministry of Agriculture

475 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will he Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 27 Members of Parliament in a representation had requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 16th March, 1993 that FP & ARD under Ministry of Fertilizer should be entrusted to Miuistry of Agriculture because of its potential for fertilizer promotion and education among the farmers;

(b) whether this proposal was sent by the Prime Minister to Agriculture Minister for consideration and a Committee was constituted to explore this possibility;

(c) if so, what further action has been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture to implement this proposal if not,, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is not a fact that FP & ARD under HFC of Fertilizer has so far executed Dryland Farming Project funded by UK from 1976 to 1988 and Rainfed Farming Project in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from November, 1988 till date; and

(e) why this experiene is not being utilised by the Agriculture Ministry on an All India scale in view of the necessity of such projects in many other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, who are of the view that since the activities of the FP & ARD are closely related with the marketing of fertilisers, the efficient functioning at field level as well as the result oriented approach could be achieved if it is managed by the fertiliser producing companies. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation therefore, did not constitute any Committee.

Government has not taken any decision to close down FR & ARD of HFC.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is already executing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme and seven Foreign assisted Rainfed Farming Projects through State Governments.

News Paper Report on import of butter oil

476. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an Editorial published in 'THE Hindustan Times' dated 22nd November, 1994 pointing out that the recent decision to permit the National Dairy Development Board to import 20,000 tonnes of butter oil is "an anti-consumer trend" and in favour of "the financial interests of dairy product manufacturers";

(b) if so, what prevented the Central Government to import the same during the last four months or so when acute shortage of butter oil was perceived and the retailers openly charged a black price for table butter in the market; and

(c) the present availability position of butter oil in the country and the quantity imported till date alongwith